

Tales for peace and wisdom

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Introduction

Dear Friends,

Gathered some best spiritual stories. One can really enjoy them, and have an insight into workings of our own mind. These are collected from social media like whatsapp, FB. Desire behind this work is to see the reader, strong and happy inwardly. Personally I wish to see my fellow human beings living with great joy, without any burdens of the past. Only a happy human being can create a peaceful society. This book is just collection, in a sense I am not actual author of this book. The questions at the end of each chapter are mine. Try to go beyond the story and see mind of the character in these stories. My first book listed below, is inspired by one of the greatest human beings of all time 'Jiddu Krishnamurti'. PASSIONATELY TRYING TO SPREAD THE GOOD FOR A PEACEFUL SOCIETY, HOPE YOU WILL PASS ON TO FEW MORE SERIOUS PEOPLE. THANK YOU.

"The SILENCE of the good people is more DANGEROUS than the BRUTALITY of the bad people" Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Parrot's Training

In 'The Parrot's Training', we are told of a golden cage that is built to imprison a wild and uncivilized parrot so that she could be properly educated. In addition to the usual school curriculum, she was also expected to learn to listen and obey. She was allowed to question but within the structure and not question the structure itself. First, the teachers tried stuffing her with pages of the official textbooks. Days went by but that did not work. Then teachers, educators came together to brainstorm on some creative means to make things more interesting. More activity based things were introduced to drill the concepts in.

A UNICEF project came with all kinds of child-friendly and joyful techniques. The cage was decorated with all sorts of colourful pictures and charts. There was a blip in interest, but it died as soon as it came. The educators from all over came together to talk once again. They decided that more investment is required in the system. The World Bank was approached. It gave a loan to the king to build a bigger cage with a nice toilet. A software company gave her a laptop with free internet connection. Many other facilities were added. But still, there was no considerable difference in parrot's attitude towards learning! Finally the intellectuals came in and debated for days. It was decided that researchers from the Harvard researchers should be invited to conduct studies on the parrot's brain and multiple intelligences. They came and as a result many papers were published, and many a books were written. The parrot's case became famous, however, it's personal condition only worsened. As her distress increased she was given mindfulness training. They also taught her about child rights. Some concerned individual advised the parrot needs sometime alone. Not understanding what he or she truly meant, an hour of

silence and meditation was included in the already overly packed timetable.

The only thing parrot was not allowed to do was the little thing she so dearly wanted to do – to leave the cage. Whenever she tried to break out she was put in back. In fact, she was scolded for being ungrateful and impertinent. Time and again she was reprimanded, “We are doing so much for you, spending so much on you and you do not even care.”

Over the years parrot did end up learning a few things but lost the interest in learning itself. She slowly became dependent on the very cage she earlier wanted to break out from. She internalized the fact that the people around her were indeed doing a favor to her; that she and eventually her children too needs support of this wonderful cage. One day the cage was accidentally left open but she was afraid to venture out. Her dreams were reduced to being a rat in the rat-race. Slowly her spirit withered away. In the end, a lot of people made a lot of money on the parrot’s education, everyone benefited except the parrot.

As a parent what you are going to do, to save your child?

To Calm A Disturbed Mind

Once Buddha was walking from one town to another town with a few of his followers.. This was in the initial days. While they were traveling, they happened to pass a lake. They stopped there and Buddha told one of his disciples, “I am thirsty. Do get me some water from that lake there.” The disciple walked up to the lake. When he reached it, he noticed that right at that moment, a bullock cart started crossing through the lake. As a result, the water became very muddy, very turbid. The disciple thought, “How can I give this muddy water to Buddha to drink!”

So he came back and told Buddha, “The water in there is very muddy. I don’t think it is fit to drink.” After about half an hour, again Buddha asked the same disciple to go back to the lake and get him some water to drink. The disciple obediently went back to the lake. This time too he found that the lake was muddy. He returned and informed Buddha about the same. After sometime, again Buddha asked the same disciple to go back. The disciple reached the lake to find the lake absolutely clean and clear with pure water in it. The mud had settled down and the water above it looked fit to be had. So he collected some water in a pot and brought it to Buddha.

Buddha looked at the water, and then he looked up at the disciple and said,” See what you did to make the water clean. You let it be.... and the mud settled down on its own – and you got clear water. Your mind is also like that! When it is disturbed, just let it be. Give it a little time. It will settle down on its own. You don’t have to put in any effort to calm it down. It will happen. It is effortless.

Can we put this into action?

Power of questioning

Father and son, went to a temple, suddenly son shouted after seeing the pillars of Lions at the entrance of the temple "Run Dad, or those Lions will eat us " Dad consoled him saying "they are just statues and wont harm us" Son replied " if those lion statues wont harm us then how could statues of God give us blessings" The father wrote in his diary... "I am still speechless on my childs answer and have started searching for God in Humans instead of statues. . I didn't find God but I found humanity.

Are we encouraging the quality of questioning in our children? or are we telling them don't question, rather be a part of this profoundly sick society?

Questioning is the beginning of intelligence... Jiddu Krishnamurti.

What you sow, you reap

A small story which beautifully illustrates that what you sow, you reap. " Once upon a time there was a small time business man from a small village who used to sell butter in the nearby town. A big shop owner in the town was his regular customer. The villager used to deliver every month the shop owner the required butter in 1 Kg. Blocks and in turn he used to get grocery items like sugar, pulses etc from the big shop owner. Once the shop owner decided to weigh the butter and to his surprise every block of butter weighed 900 gms. instead of 1kg.

Next month when the villager came to supply Butter, the shop owner was very angry at him and told to leave the shop, to this the villager replied him courteously " Sir, I am a very poor villager, I don't have enough money to even buy the required weights for weighing the butter, I usually put the 1Kg sugar you give me on one side of Weighing scale and weigh butter on another side" This beautifully illustrates that what we give to others comes back to us.

We believe in reincarnation, then why don't we behave correctly in the present? Why there is no love and compassion for fellow human beings?

Silent mind

Once there was a farmer who discovered that he had lost his watch in the farm. It was not an ordinary watch because it had sentimental value for him. After searching the hay for a long while, he gave up and asked for the help of a group of children playing outside the barn. He promised them that, the person who found it, would be rewarded. Hearing this, the children hurried inside the barn, went through and around the hay but still could not find the watch. Just when the farmer was about to give up looking for his watch, a little boy went up to him and asked to be given another chance. The farmer looked at him and thought, "Why not.? After all, this kid looks sincere enough."

So the farmer sent the little boy back in the barn. After a while the little boy came out with the watch in his hand. The farmer was happy and surprised and so he asked the boy how he succeeded where the rest had failed. The boy replied, "I did nothing but sit on the ground and listen. In the silence, I heard the ticking of the watch and just looked for it in that direction."

MESSAGE : A Peaceful mind can think better than a Worked up mind. Allow a few minutes of Silence to your mind every day, and see, how sharply it helps you to set your life the way you expect it to be.

MORAL : The soul always knows what to do to heal itself. The challenge is to silence the mind.

When we are going to realize, the extraordinary strength and energy of a simple mind?

Passion and completion

Mukesh and Anil joined a company together a few months after their graduation from university. After a few years of work, their Manager promoted Mukesh to a position of Senior Sales Manager, but Anil remained in his entry level Junior Sales Officer position.

Anil developed a sense of jealousy and disgruntlement, but continued working anyway.

One day Anil felt that he could not work with Mukesh anymore. He wrote his resignation letter, but before he submitted it to the Manager, he complained that Management did not value hard working staff, but only promoted only the favoured!

The Manager knew that Anil worked very hard for the years he had spent at the company; even harder than Mukesh and therefore he deserved the promotion. So in order to help Anil to realize this, the Manager gave Anil a task.

"Go and find out if anyone is selling water melons in town?"

Anil returned and said, "yes there is someone!"

The Manager asked, "how much per kg?" Anil drove back to town to ask and then returned to inform the Manager; "they are Rs 13.50 per kg!"

The Manager told Anil, "I will give Mukesh the same task that I gave you.

So the Manager said to Mukesh, in the presence of Anil ; "Go and find out if anyone is selling water melons in town?"

Mukesh went to find out and on his return he said: "Manager, there is only one person selling water melons in the whole town. The cost is Rs 49.00 each water melon and Rs 32,50 for a half

melon. He sells them at Rs 13.50 per kg when sliced. He has in his stock 93 melons, each one weighing about 7kg.

He has a farm and can supply us with melons for the next 4 months at a rate of 102 melons per day at Rs 27.00 per melon; this includes delivery.

The melons appear fresh and red with good quality, and they taste better than the ones we sold last year.

He has his own slicing machine and is willing to slice for us free of charge. We need to strike a deal with him before 10 a. m tomorrow and we will be sure of beating last year's profits in melons by Rs 223 . This will contribute positively to our overall performance as it will add a minimum of 3.78% to our current overall sales target.

I have put this information down in writing and is available on spreadsheet.

Please let me know if you need it as I can send it to you in fifteen minutes."

Anil was very impressed and realized the difference between himself and Mukesh. He decided not to resign but to learn from Mukesh.

Let this story help us keep in mind the importance of going an extra mile in all our endeavors.

MORAL : Mukesh involved and enjoyed the work whereas Anil just tried to complete, but is completion possible without passion? Also it's not always the higher management, but the employee also has to work on himself.

Can fear, control and competition bring about passion?

The fox is real

In a small village in India, a little fox told its father of its desire to eat human flesh. Next day father fox managed to get some pig meat and offered to his son. But the little fox didn't have it. Then the father fox managed to get some cow meat and offered it. The little fox declined to eat that as well. The stubborn little fox was adamant that he will not settle for anything other than human meat. That night the father fox left the pork in the front of a masjid/mosque and the beef in the front of a temple/mandir. By next day morning the entire village was filled with human dead bodies. The little fox ate human meat for a week and was so happy his father managed to get so much human meat. Story might be hypothetical, but the Fox is for real, and the division is real.

Why humanity failed to see a simple fact that "where ever there is division, there must be conflict"?

God & Air

A hermit was meditating by a river when a young man interrupted him. "Master, I wish to become your disciple," said the man. "Why?" replied the hermit. The young man thought for a moment. "Because I want to find God." The master jumped up, grabbed him by the scruff of his neck, dragged him into the river, and plunged his head under water. After holding him there for a minute, with him kicking and struggling to free himself, the master finally pulled him up out of the river. The young man coughed up water and gasped to get his breath. When he eventually quieted down, the master spoke. "Tell me, what did you want most of all when you were under water." "Air!" answered the man. "Very well," said the master. "Go home and come back to me when you want God as much as you just wanted air."

Are we really passionate to bring peace and happiness on earth?

Do you really trust?

A Catholic is standing on a mountain and looks down into the beauty of the valley. Suddenly he slips and falls down the cliff and is barely able to hold on to the branch of a tree that is growing there. Below him is an abyss of a thousand feet. He doesn't know what to do, so he prays, 'Please, Lord, help me. Save me from death.' And a voice comes out of the sky and says, 'Have faith, let go! And the man looks up and calls out, 'Is there anybody else up there?'"

While we were all laughing, Krishnamurti looked at us with bright eyes, eventually asking, "What is trust? Do you have trust? Not trust in something, some idea or ideal, just trust."

Meaningless practice

A young man wanting to find truth goes to see a famous guru. 'Master, can you teach me meditation and truth?' he asks. The guru agrees, and the disciple immediately assumes the lotus posture, closing his eyes and breathing rhythmically to show what he knows. The master doesn't say anything but picks up two stones from the ground and starts rubbing them against each other. Hearing the strange noise, the disciple opens his eyes and asks, 'Master, what are you doing?' The guru answers 'I am rubbing these stones against each other to polish them into a mirror so I can look at myself.' 'The disciple laughs, 'but master, if you don't mind my telling you: you'll never be able to make a mirror of these stones by rubbing them against each other. You can do that forever, and it won't work.' 'Similarly, my friend,' the master says, 'you can sit like that forever, but you'll never be meditating or understanding truth.'

Do you ever question your own knowledge, especially about life? or you take shelter in some guru, philosophy, religious book...etc?

Cartoon in a magazine

"The other day I saw a cartoon in a magazine," he recounted to the audience. "It's in New York City, at a busy intersection in Times Square. There are two dogs sitting by the curbside, watching the people hurrying by, always busy and in a rush. And one dog says to the other, 'you know, reincarnation gives me the creeps.' "

Why there is this incessant chattering of the mind "to become somebody"?

Conflict within

“There are three monks, who had been sitting in deep meditation for many years amidst the Himalayan snow peaks, never speaking a word, in utter silence. One morning, one of the three suddenly speaks up and says, ‘What a lovely morning this is.’ And he falls silent again. Five years of silence pass, when all at once the second monk speaks up and says, ‘But we could do with some rain.’ There is silence among them for another five years, when suddenly the third monk says, ‘Why can’t you two stop chattering?’”

You may attend many spiritual programs or run away to mountains, but who can end chattering of your mind?

A Corporate Story

Every day, a small Ant arrives at work very early and starts work immediately.

She produces a lot and she was happy.

The Chief, a Tiger, was surprised to see that the Ant was working without supervision.

He thought if the Ant can produce so much without supervision, wouldn't she produce even more if she had a supervisor!

So he recruited a Bee who had extensive experience as supervisor and who was famous for writing excellent reports.

The Bee's first decision was to set up a clocking in attendance system.

He also needed a secretary to help him write and type his reports and he recruited a Rabbit, who managed the archives and monitored all phone calls.

The Tiger was delighted with the Bee's reports and asked him to produce graphs to describe production rates and to analyse trends, so that he could use them for presentations at Board's meetings.

So the Bee had to buy a new computer and a Laser printer and recruited a Cat to manage the IT department.

The Ant, who had once been so productive and relaxed, hated this new plethora of paperwork and meetings which used up most of her time

The Tiger came to the conclusion that it was high time to nominate a person in charge of the department where the Ant worked.

The position was given to the Monkey, whose first decision was to buy an Air Conditioner and an ergonomic chair for his office.

The new person in charge, the Monkey, also needed a computer and a personal assistant, who he brought from his previous department, to help him prepare a Work and 'Budget Control Strategic Optimisation Plan'.

The Department where the Ant works is now a sad place, where nobody laughs anymore and everybody has become upset...

It was at that time that the Bee convinced the boss, the Tiger; of the absolute necessity to start a climatic study of the environment .

Having reviewed the charges for running the Ant's department , the Tiger found out that the Production was much less than before.

So he recruited the Owl, a prestigious and renowned consultant to carry out an audit and suggest solutions.

The Owl spent three months in the department and came up with an enormous report, in several volumes, that concluded...

The Department is overstaffed

Guess who the Tiger fires first?

Of course, the Ant.....,

"....because she showed lack of motivation and had a negative attitude. "

Freedom from the desire for an answer is essential to the understanding of a problem.. Jiddu Krishnamurti

That's what you are inside

A conversation between Wayne Dyer and his student:

If I were to squeeze this orange as hard as I could, what would come out? I asked him.

He looked at me like I was a little crazy and said, Juice, of course.

Do you think apple juice could come out of it?

No! he laughed.

What about grapefruit juice?

No!

What would come of it?

Orange juice, of course

Why? Why when you squeeze an orange does orange juice comes out?

He may have been getting a little exasperated with me at this point.

Well, it s an orange and that s what s inside.

I nodded.

Let s assume that this orange isn't an orange, but it's you. And someone squeezes you, puts pressure on you, says something you don t like, offends you.

And out of you comes anger, hatred, bitterness etc. Why?

The answer, as our young friend has told us, is because that's what s inside .

It's one of the great lessons of life.

What come out when life squeezes you? When someone hurts or offends you? If anger, pain and fear come out of you, it s because that's what s inside.

It doesn't matter who does the squeezing: your mother, your brother, your children, the government.

If someone says something about you that you don t like, what comes out of you is what s inside. And what s inside is up to you, it s your choice.

When someone puts the pressure on you and out of you comes anything other than love, it s because that s what you ve allowed to be inside.

Once you take away all those negative things you don t want in your life and replace them with love, you ll find yourself living a highly functioning life.

Squeeze out of yourself Love and Compassion!!!

When you ignore to learn what you are inside, suffering follows.

Mokusen's Hand

Mokusen Hiki was living in a temple in the province of Tamba. One of his adherents complained of the stinginess of his wife. Mokusen visited the adherent's wife and showed her his clenched fist before her face. What do you mean by that? asked the surprised woman.

Suppose my fist were always like that. What would you call it? he asked. Deformed, replied the woman.

The he opened his hand flat in her face and asked: Suppose it were always like that. What then? Another kind of deformity, said the wife.

If you understand that much, finished Mokusen, you are a good wife. Then he left. After his visit, this wife helped her husband to distribute as well as to save.

Doesn't it mean we are living with closed fist, when we try to possess a person in our relationship? Is possession, attachment, identification love?

A Mother's Advice

Jiun, a Shogun master, was a well-known Sanskrit scholar of the Tokugawa era. When he was young he used to deliver lectures to his brother students. His mother heard about this and wrote him a letter: "Son, I do not think you became a devotee of the Buddha because you desired to turn into a walking dictionary for others. There is no end to information and commentation, glory and honor. I wish you would stop this lecture business. Shut yourself up in a little temple in a remote part of the mountain. Devote your time to meditation and in this way attain true realization."

We understand a little, but talk extensively. Is not verbalization a major factor, which prevents realizing truth?

Flapping Flag

Once two Zen monks were walking down the road. It was a breezy day. One of them said to the other: "Look, the flag is flapping in the breeze." The second monk replied: "No, that is foolish. The breeze is flapping the flag!" And so they spent an exciting quarter hour: "The flag is flapping!"

"The breeze is flapping!"

As the debate was heating up, the Zen master appeared on the road. They ran to him. "Roshi, please settle our dispute. I say the flag is flapping in the breeze, he says the breeze is flapping the flag. Which one of us is right?" The master looked at them with a penetrating eye. "You are both wrong," he said. "Your minds are flapping!"

This story best resembles the present news media, how they take simple issue and turns it into a major crisis without resolving it. Are we not influenced by media, leaders, religious propaganda?

The Other Side

One day a young Buddhist on his journey home came to the banks of a wide river. Staring hopelessly at the great obstacle in front of him, he pondered for hours on just how to cross such a wide barrier. Just as he was about to give up his pursuit to continue his journey he saw a great teacher on the other side of the river. The young Buddhist yells over to the teacher, "Oh wise one, can you tell me how to get to the other side of this river"? The teacher ponders for a moment looks up and down the river and yells back, "My son, you are on the other side".

Why don't we approach great obstacles in life with a simple & silent mind? Why we always desire for an end result? why don't we stay with the problem, so that it can reveal itself?

Zen Dialogue

Zen teachers train their young pupils to express themselves. Two Zen temples each had a child protege. One child, going to obtain vegetables each morning, would meet the other on the way.

Where are you going? asked the one.

I am going wherever my feet go, the other responded.

This reply puzzled the first child who went to his teacher for help. Tomorrow morning, the teacher told him, when you meet that little fellow, ask him the same question. He will give you the same answer, and then you ask him: 'Suppose you have no feet, then where are you going?' That will fix him.

The children met again the following morning.

Where are you going? asked the first child.

I am going wherever the wind blows, answered the other. This again nonplussed the youngster, who took his defeat to his teacher.

Ask him where he is going if there is no wind, suggested the teacher.

The next day the children met a third time.

Where are you going? asked the first child.

I am going to the market to buy vegetables, the other replied.

Are we not mechanical like the first child?

Unparalleled Donor

Once Krishna and Arjuna were walking towards a village. Arjuna was pestering Krishna, asking him why Karna should be considered an unparalleled Donor & not him ?

Krishna, turned two mountains into gold.

Then said, "Arjuna, distribute these two gold mountains among villagers, but you must donate every bit of it ".

Arjuna went into the village, and proclaimed he was going to donate gold to every villager, and asked them to gather near the mountain. The villagers sang his praises and Arjuna walked towards the mountains with a huffed up chest.

For two days and two nights Arjuna shovelled gold from the mountain and donated to each villager. The mountains did not diminish in the slightest.

Most villagers came back and stood in queue within minutes. Now Arjuna was exhausted, but not ready to let go of his Ego, told Krishna he couldn't go on any longer without rest.

Then Krishna called Karna and told him to donate every bit of the two gold mountains.

Karna called the villagers, and said "Those two Gold mountains are yours. " and walked away.

Arjuna sat dumbfounded. Why hadn't this thought occurred to him?

Krishna smiled mischievously and told him "Arjuna, subconsciously, you were attracted to the gold, you regretfully gave it away to each villager, giving them what you thought was a generous amount. Thus the size of your donation to each villager depended only on your imagination.

Karna holds no such reservations. Look at him walking away after giving away a fortune, he doesn't expect people to sing his NM praises, he doesn't even care if people talk good or bad about him behind his back. That is the sign of a man already on the path of enlightenment".

Giving with an Expectation of a Return in the form of a Compliment or Thanks is not a Gift, then it becomes a Trade.

Do we really know what is love? Is not the love in our relationships a form of trade?

The story of watermelons

The story of watermelons by Manohar Parrikar:

"I am from the village of Parra in Goa, hence we are called Parrikars. My village is famous for its watermelons. When I was a child, the farmers would organise a watermelon-eating contest at the end of the harvest season in May.

All the kids would be invited to eat as many watermelons as they wanted. Years later, I went to IIT Mumbai to study engineering. I went back to my village after 6.5 years.

I went to the market looking for watermelons. They were all gone. The ones that were there were so small.

I went to see the farmer who hosted the watermelon-eating contest. His son had taken over. He would host the contest but there was a difference.

When the older farmer gave us watermelons to eat he would ask us to spit out the seeds into a bowl. We were told not to bite into the seeds.

He was collecting the seeds for his next crop. We were unpaid child labourers, actually. He kept his best watermelons for the contest and he got the best seeds which would yield even bigger watermelons the next year.

His son, when he took over, realised that the larger watermelons would fetch more money in the market so he sold the larger ones and kept the smaller ones for the contest.

The next year, the watermelons were smaller, the year later even small. In watermelons the generation is one year. In seven years, Parra's best watermelons were finished. In humans, generations

change after 25 years. It will take us 200 years to figure what we were doing wrong while educating our children."

Without employing the best, how can we train the next generation?

Children only copy us

A lady was travelling in a train with a 6 year old kid. They both were reading books.

This seemed unbelievable to most of the fellow passengers. Then one of them got up and asked : "ma'am, in today's world the kids who were born yesterday are playing with smartphones and this kid is reading. How come he is not playing with a phone or a tablet? How come he listens to you and how did you make him do that?"

To this the woman calmly replied : "Sir, kids do not listen to us , they only copy us." A small sentence... a deep meaning...

Leadership lesson

A story about leadership by Abdul Kalam:

Let me tell you about my experience. In 1973 I became the project director of India's satellite launch vehicle program, commonly called the SLV-3. Our goal was to put India's "Rohini" satellite into orbit by 1980. I was given funds and human resources — but was told clearly that by 1980 we had to launch the satellite into space. Thousands of people worked together in scientific and technical teams towards that goal.

By 1979 — I think the month was August — we thought we were ready. As the project director, I went to the control center for the launch. At four minutes before the satellite launch, the computer began to go through the checklist of items that needed to be checked. One minute later, the computer program put the launch on hold; the display showed that some control components were not in order. My experts — I had four or five of them with me — told me not to worry; they had done their calculations and there was enough reserve fuel. So I bypassed the computer, switched to manual mode, and launched the rocket. In the first stage, everything worked fine. In the second stage, a problem developed. Instead of the satellite going into orbit, the whole rocket system plunged into the Bay of Bengal. It was a big failure.

That day, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization, Prof. Satish Dhawan, had called a press conference. The launch was at 7:00 am, and the press conference — where journalists from around the world were present — was at 7:45 am at ISRO's satellite launch range in Sriharikota [in Andhra Pradesh in southern India]. Prof. Dhawan, the leader of the organization, conducted the press conference himself. He took responsibility for the failure — he said that the team had worked very hard, but that

it needed more technological support. He assured the media that in another year, the team would definitely succeed. Now, I was the project director, and it was my failure, but instead, he took responsibility for the failure as chairman of the organization.

The next year, in July 1980, we tried again to launch the satellite — and this time we succeeded. The whole nation was jubilant. Again, there was a press conference. Prof. Dhawan called me aside and told me, “You conduct the press conference today.”

I learned a very important lesson that day. When failure occurred, the leader of the organization owned that failure. When success came, he gave it to his team. The best management lesson I have learned did not come to me from reading a book; it came from that experience.

Who is leader, the one who try to control people through fear or the one who tries to generate passion for work?